



## KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

### Superintendents Advisory Council (SAC)

#### July 6, 2020 Minutes

**Present:** Danny Adkins, Casey Allen, Deanna Ashby, Robin Cochran, Thom Cochran, Kay Dixon, Scott Hawkins, Sanford Holbrook, Mark Kopp, Mike Lafavers, Kyle Lively, Danny Osborne, Matt Robbins, Wayne Roberts, David Rust, Greg Schultz, Tres Settle, Jay Simmons, Robb Smith, Kelly Sprinkles, Henry Webb

**Absent:** Doug Bennett, Cornelius Faulkner, Marty Pollio

#### **I. Workplace Health and Safety**

New guidance on COVID-19 considerations for reopening schools, where it applies to workplace health and safety, was presented. This guidance works as a companion piece to the Department for Public Health's (DPH) previously released information. Some of the highlighted resources include the following: planning tools, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines, and an emphasis on working with local health officials. Timelines for keeping those home who test positive for COVID-19 were shared. Districts should be thinking about adequate space for school health rooms. Sanitation efforts and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) should continue to be a focus. Everyone from 1st grade and up should be wearing a mask unless they have a medical exemption. There may be special considerations for children with individualized education programs (IEPs). Social distancing should still be a priority when planning. Temperature checks and the handling of fevers over 100.4 degrees were addressed. Superintendents asked for clarification on this topic and how to handle parents who refuse to have their child tested for COVID-19.

#### **II. Guidance on Safety Expectations and Best Practices for Kentucky Schools**

Some guidelines from the CDC were shared concerning testing and contact tracing. Superintendents were assured that there is no out-of-pocket expense for COVID-19 testing, and that parents may not be aware of this. It was mentioned that the CDC has not recommended blanket testing for students, but testing school employees and more vulnerable adults is encouraged. There are many questions concerning contact tracing and the possibility of test refusal. The superintendents understand that contact tracing of those testing positive for COVID-19 allows information to be collected and used to reach out to those who may have been exposed. They also understand that the contact tracing is only as effective as the testing. Some parents are just not going to be on board with the process. The Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) and DPH plan to look into this and provide more guidance to districts as soon as possible.

### **III. EO Memorandum and Proposed KBE e-reg regarding NTI days, attendance and funding for the 2020-2021 SY**

A memorandum submitted by Interim Commissioner of Education Kevin C. Brown was reviewed, which gives some leniency to superintendents in the areas of school funding and non-traditional instruction (NTI). Current year attendance will not be used to calculate school funding for the 2020-2021 school year. Rather, districts may use attendance data they submitted for either school year 18-19 or 19-20 to calculate funding for the next school year. The KDE will review participation vs. attendance. Participation is gauged by student engagement and student-teacher interaction, but not performance; and it should be recorded daily. The number of NTI days is no longer capped at 10, and Brown plans to recommend an unlimited number for the upcoming school year. Participation will be reported to the KDE three times annually.